The 50th anniversary of the establishment of the Diocese of Fort Worth causes us to celebrate with joy for the mission entrusted to us, as Pope Francis wrote, “to embark upon a new chapter of evangelization marked by this joy.”

In the chapters of this book, you will find that the seeds of the local Church were planted with the arrival of the first missionaries in Texas from Spain nearly 500 years ago. You will read about explorers who sought riches and friars whose goals were to save souls.

Step by step, you will discover how our present Diocese of Fort Worth eventually became a reality.

The contents of this book and our 50th anniversary celebration represent the start of our history. The next chapter begins with each of us, our shared and personal encounters with Christ and the joy we spread together through the new evangelization.

 Most Reverend Michael F. Olson, STD, MA

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